

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for executing commands in a system having a database, a plurality of devices remote from the database and a gateway that provides a communications interface between said remote devices and said database, comprising the following steps:
- storing a queue in said database containing a sequence of commands to be executed;
 - retrieving, at said gateway, a command from the queue and transmitting the retrieved command from the gateway to an agent running on at least one of said remote devices, for execution on said one device;
 - at said gateway, receiving a message from the agent reporting the results of the execution of the command;
 - retrieving, at said gateway, the next command from the queue in response to receipt of said message, and transmitting said retrieved next command to the agent for execution;
 - in response to receiving a message at the gateway from the agent reporting the results of the execution of at least one command, transmitting a command from the gateway to the agent on the remote device to initiate a reboot process;
 - placing the queue in a reboot status in response to the initiation of the reboot process;
 - retrieving at the gateway a message from the agent indicating the completion of the reboot process at the remote device;
 - removing the queue from reboot status in response to said message, and checking at the gateway whether any commands remain in the queue that have not yet been completed; and
 - resuming the step of retrieving commands in the queue and transmitting them to the agent if uncompleted commands are determined to be present in the queue.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said queue is placed in said reboot status in response to receipt at said gateway of a message from the agent on the remote device indicating that the reboot process is in progress.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said agent opens a new communication session with said gateway to transmit said message.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said new communication session comprises a secure socket.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further including the step of updating the status of the queue to indicate the command that has been most recently transmitted to the agent for execution.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said sequence of commands cause the agent to install and configure software on the remote device.
38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said message indicating the completion of the reboot process at the remote device includes a report of the configuration of the remote device.